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REMARKS

Applicants concurrently file herewith an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter and corresponding excess claim fee, for ten excess claims.

Claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-26, 28-38, and 40-52 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly define the claimed invention. Applicants have added claims 43-52 to claim additional features of the invention and to vary the protection of the claimed invention further.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14-16, 35-38, and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunn, et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0210402; hereinafter “Gunn”) in view of Comerford, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,671; hereinafter “Comerford”) and Duarte (U.S. Patent No. 7,093,201). Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 21-26, and 30-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunn in view of Comerford, Duarte, and Do (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,869). Claims 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 28, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunn in view of Comerford, Duarte, and Cirne (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,763).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention (e.g., as defined by exemplary claim 1) is directed to a display control device, which includes a display control section adapted to display a start menu screen, the start menu screen comprising a plurality of icons corresponding to a plurality of functions, whereby upon selection of one of the plurality of icons the display control section is adapted to display a plurality of button groups each having at least one button in a monitor connected thereto and to display any of the buttons displayed in the monitor in focused state (e.g., see Application at Figures 6A-7 and page 28, line 17 through page 33, line 2).

Accordingly, the operation of the display may be comprehended easily and quickly.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Alleged Combination of Gunn, Comerford, and Duarte

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Gunn with Comerford and Duarte to teach the claimed invention of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14-16, 35-38, and 40-42. Applicants submit, however, that, even if combined, the alleged combination of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

That is, the alleged combination of references does not teach or suggest, “*a display control section adapted to display a start menu screen, said start menu screen comprising a plurality of icons corresponding to a plurality of functions, whereby upon selection of one of said plurality of icons said display control section is adapted to display a plurality of button groups each having at least one button in a monitor connected thereto and to display any of the buttons displayed in the monitor in focused state*” (emphasis added by Applicants), as

recited in exemplary claim 1 and similarly recited in exemplary claims 17 and 26.

As previously explained, Gunn merely provides a single keyboard configuration where the most commonly used keys are located substantially in the center of the circular keyboard (see Gunn at paragraph [0125]). Gunn also teaches, with reference to Figures 10-12, that the user may swap between several keyboard layouts (see Gunn at paragraph [0128]).

Specifically, Gunn teaches switching from an alphabetical keyboard (Figure 10) to either a numerical keyboard (Figure 11) or a symbol keyboard (Figure 12).

Gunn, however, is not directed to a menu display system as in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants maintain that Gunn is not particularly relevant to the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the Examiner concedes that Gunn does not teach or suggest, “*a display control section adapted to display a start menu screen, said start menu screen comprising a plurality of icons corresponding to a plurality of functions, whereby upon selection of one of said plurality of icons said display control section is adapted to display a plurality of button groups each having at least one button in a monitor connected thereto and to display any of the buttons displayed in the monitor in focused state*” (see Office Action dated March 31, 2009 at page 5).

The Examiner, however, alleges that Duarte makes up the deficiencies of Gunn.

Duarte merely teaches a menu system in the form of a curved-listing file hierarchy, which the Examiner attempts to analogize to the claimed annular ring arrangement (e.g., see dependent claims 41 and 42). The curved-listing of Duarte, however, does not include a plurality of button groups.

In the claimed invention, a display control section displays a start menu screen (e.g.,

see Application at Figure 6A) including a plurality of icons. Once one of the icons in the start menu screen is selected, the display control section displays a plurality of button groups (e.g., see Application at Figure 7).

Duarte, however, merely discloses a curved-file hierarchy. Duarte does not teach or suggest a start menu including a plurality of icons. Duarte also does not teach or suggest that, upon selection of an icon, the display control section is adapted to display a plurality of button groups.

Indeed, even assuming that Duarte discloses that the curved hierarchy illustrated in Figures 1-4 is displayed after an icon is selected from a start menu (which Duarte does not teach or suggest), the curved file hierarchy does not include a plurality of button groups. Indeed, the curved hierarchy merely includes a plurality of headings (which the Examiner analogizes to buttons) that are not grouped into separate groups.

According to certain exemplary embodiments of the invention, the display control section displays a plurality of button groups, not just a plurality of buttons. For example, (please note this example is merely for the Examiner's understanding and is not meant to limit the scope of the claimed invention in any manner), the display control section displays a plurality of buttons 152a to 152i, which are arranged in two separate groups. The group on the right includes tuning buttons while the buttons on the left include other function buttons (e.g., see dependent claims 43 and 44; Figure 7 and pages 30-31 of the Application).

The alleged combination of references does not teach or suggest the claimed invention in the specific detail recited in the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicants submit that, even if combined, the alleged combination of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

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Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

B. The Do Reference

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Do with Gunn, Comerford, and Duarte to teach the claimed invention of claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 21-26, and 30-34. Applicants submit, however, that, even if combined, the alleged combination of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

That is, claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 21-26, and 30-34 are allowable at least based on similar reasons to those set forth above, in section A, with respect to claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14-16, 35-38, and 40-42.

Therefore, Applicants submit that, even if combined, the alleged combination of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

C. The Cirne Reference

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Cirne with Gunn, Comerford, and Duarte to teach the claimed invention of claims 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 28, and 29. Applicants submit, however, that, even if combined, the alleged combination of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

That is, claims 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 28, and 29 are allowable at least based on similar reasons to those set forth above, in section A, with respect to claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14-16,

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35-38, and 40-42.

Therefore, Applicants submit that, even if combined, the alleged combination of references would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

III. NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new claims 43-52 to claim additional features of the invention and to provide more varied protection for the claimed invention. These claims are independently patentable because of the novel and nonobvious features recited therein.

Applicants submit that new claims 43-49 are patentable over the cited prior art references at least for analogous reasons to those set forth above with respect to claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-26, 28-38, and 40-42.

IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-26, 28-38, and 40-52, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

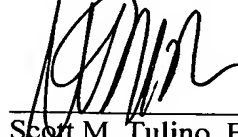
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, Applicants requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: June 30, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,



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